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DUCK SHORTAGE IS SHOWN
IN REPORT BY DOG TRAINER

Ducks are so scarce in southeastern Saskatchewan this year that upland-game bird dogs, being trained there for American sportsmen, are for once keeping their noses in their own business, according to a correspondent of the Bureau of Biological Survey who annually trains dogs in that region. Usually, he reports, the prairie ponds are one to ten acres in size and ducks so plentiful as to be a nuisance to the dog-trainer. The dogs get interested in ducks when they should be concentrating on upland birds such as prairie chickens and grouse. But this year the prairie is "dry and bare as a floor" and he has seen only one flock of ducks. Therefore, the dogs stick to the business the trainers have cut out for them.

"This is a new angle on the duck shortage," say officials of the Biological Survey, "but like our other reports it shows that we are facing a serious situation. We had our investigators up as far north as they could get, and they found ample water and plenty of food for the birds. Yet such important nesting areas as Thief Lake were only about 40 percent occupied, showing the bad effects of drought, overshooting and other factors. That is a very sad story when it is remembered that nearly all the ducks from the drought areas have been crowded into these regions. With reports like these coming in we can't emphasize too much the importance of our national program of wildlife restoration."